

If this petition is granted, this would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs. As a result, independent ISPs would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise prices for their customers in the long term.

The more serious threat is that it is even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for independent ISPs' DSL service, and the ISPs then would be unable to sell DSL at all.

BellSouth's claim that their own affiliated ISP service already controls a huge majority of the market, and that squashing the rest of the competition isn't likely to impact the market much is patently un-American.

If such a petition were to be granted, the FCC would be creating a monopoly in the long run. We customers deserve to have a choice. Please do not take this away from us.